

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the arguments presented in the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks presented below.

Claim 23 was amended and claim 24 was canceled. Thus, claims 23 and 25-29 are pending in the application.

Original claim 24 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 23 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 24. No new matter was added. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23 and 25-29 are patentable over the art of record and therefore request that they be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have carefully reviewed the arguments presented in the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the above amendments and arguments, or any suggestions for further amending the claims to obtain allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney, John Fitzgerald, at 310-242-2667.

The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fees in this matter to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Date: January 3, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LLP

By: /john k. fitzgerald/
John K. Fitzgerald, Registration No. 38,881

JKF:mmm

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
145572.1